



Walberswick Village News

October 2023 | Issue 323

Walberswick Parish Council

LionLink

At its September meeting, Walberswick Parish Council (WPC) resolved to respond to the non-statutory LionLink consultation on behalf of the village as a whole with the draft response being published on 10 October and discussed at the next Council meeting on 16 October. However, every villager is strongly advised to also submit their own response.

Following the consultation day held in Walberswick Village Hall on 23 September, WPC has also produced two other documents: (1) what we know so far about LionLink, which can be seen on pages 4-5 and at tinyurl.com/yn72jtb4, and (2) some guidance on next steps to help villagers wanting to respond to the NGV consultation, including whom to write to along with their email addresses, which can be seen on pages 6-7 and at tinyurl.com/bdz4wc7u.



Alternative landfill site

Christmas Tree on the Green

Following a very constructive parish meeting on 13 September, the Parish Council will be re-considering this matter at their next meeting on 16 October, along with a proposal from the parish meeting that a group be set up to oversee the Christmas tree each year. This approach will require volunteers and if anyone is interested in helping, please email the Parish Clerk at walberswickclerk@gmail.com.

Next Parish Council meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 16 October at 7pm in the Heritage Hut and is open to members of the public. Full details will be published on the village website, or for further information contact the Parish Clerk at walberswickclerk@gmail.com.

So much beauty we need to look after

WALL — Walberswick Against LionLink

Join the discussion on WhatsApp at tinyurl.com/WALionlink.



Walberswick and LionLink in the media

We've seen Dani Church, Mark Dorber and some of the WALL team on *ITV Anglia News*, there have been news items on the *East Anglia Daily Times* website, coverage in *The Mirror*, and an excellent article by Libby Purves in *The Times*. If you can get behind the paywall, Libby's article is here > tinyurl.com/WALLtimes. **Editor**

The Anchor

As autumn draws in, we offer cosy bars, open fires and a warm welcome. A retreat for all who enjoy good conversation, food and drink. Great effort is put into sourcing flavourful ingredients and local and international beers, as well as characterful wines.

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Walberswick Common Lands Charity



As autumn begins so does the cycle of conservation works on the Common and other Walberswick Common Lands Charity landscapes; this year it is all the more poignant in the light of LionLink, the implications of which are beginning to unravel.

There is some good news to share. Firstly, the County Council has approved the Farming in Protected Landscape project. This means funding is now available to put in culverts and foot drains on the wet grassland (as viewed from the Birdhide) to enhance provision for breeding waders next year.

Secondly, the Charity recently met with the Suffolk County Council (SCC) Countryside Projects Manager, Neil, whose role includes managing volunteers to work on projects across the AONB. Two sessions have been secured for WCLC and the first is scheduled for late November. If anyone wishes to attend and help at this, or future, sessions under the guidance of SCC please complete and return the registration form at tinyurl.com/bdcwtd3k. You will need to tick the 'Practical Conservation Tasks' role on the form. **Vanessa Tucker, Environmental Stewardship Trustee**

Village Fete raises over £17,000

I am delighted to report the great success of this year's Fete. The final amount raised was an amazing £17,130.00. This total is a testament to the friendly generosity of our special village and the hard work and energetic efforts of so many people, including the Fete Committee, the stallholders and all the other helpers. Congratulations and many thanks to all involved. **Gordon Beard, Chair, Fete Committee**

... despite the downpours



Photos: Amy Wardell & Anya Waddington

Community Speed Watch needs you

Are you concerned about the speed of traffic in the village? Have you got one or two hours to spare a month? We are a cheerful and friendly group and would love more volunteers.

Contact **Maryanne Sheth** to find out more: email maryanne3000@hotmail.com or telephone 07905 259049.

New Spong Bridge



Photos: Andrew Lewis



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MCFHP MAFHP

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Planning applications

At the time of publication, the following properties were awaiting a decision on their planning applications:

1 Adams Lane | **Seacroft**, Millfield Road | **Byways**, Stocks Lane | **Lane Corner**, Palmers Lane | **Millside**, The Street | **Toby Cottage**, Leveretts Lane | **Box Bush**, Seven Acres Lane | **Thrums**, Seven Acres Lane

The latest applications and Advisory Group Reports, can be found on the planning page on the Walberswick [website](#).

Operation Christmas Child Appeal

St Andrew's is once again participating in the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal organised by Samaritan's Purse (an international Christian relief organisation), whereby shoe boxes containing small gifts are sent to needy children around the world, regardless of their background or religious belief. These simple gifts bring great joy to children who have very little. Template shoeboxes and leaflets will be available in St Andrew's from Sunday, 24 September. Please deliver boxes to Copper Beech House or to St Andrew's (where they can be put in the vestry on Wednesday and Sunday mornings) by Sunday, 12 November. For more information, contact **Christine Fisher** on 07876 453965.

October Kitchen and Garden

October is the ideal month for making chutneys, ready to exhibit in the Horticultural Show next July. There are so many different types to make using readily available seasonal fruit and vegetables - apples, pears, figs, tomatoes, onions, squash and pumpkins to name but a few.

Chutneys are far easier and quicker to make than jams or jellies as they don't need to reach a setting point, just a good consistency. One proviso is that they should be stored for about eight to twelve weeks to give them the best flavour. Most chutneys have a shelf life of about a year if sealed properly and following the recipe instructions. There are literally hundreds of recipes to choose from online.

How about making one based around apples and cranberries? If you make it now, you will have a jar ready for Christmas. But put one at the back of the cupboard ready to exhibit at the show next year.

A few tips for exhibiting:

- Rubber sealed jars or old jam and chutney jars are fine to use but they must be no smaller than 12oz and have no branding on the sides or the lids, eg Masons, Kilner, Bonne Maman, etc
- Jars should have new plain lids
- Jars should be filled to the top
- Jars should be labelled on the side, not the lid, with the type of chutney and the date made
- The chutney must be at least 3 months old
- If the chutney is very spicy it would be good to put a warning on the jar.

On the subject of Christmas, a date for the diary, Saturday, 9 December in the Village Hall: A Christmas evening to include a demonstration and chance to make something for the festive season. More details in the November Village News. **Horticultural Committee**



Diary Dates



WI Monthly Meeting

Thursday, 5 October, 2.30pm in the Village Hall

Andrew Jackson from Blood Bikers will be talking about the work of this volunteer service, which supports the NHS by providing safe transport of urgently required medical supplies to hospitals and to the East Anglian Air Ambulance. Visitors and new members welcome. **Muriel Wortley**

Beach Clean

Sunday, 8 October, 10am at the Cliff Field Car Park

Organised by the Walberswick Wildfowls and Natural England, please join us for the autumn beach clean. Bring stout bags, gloves and shoes. All welcome. **Mark Waller**

History Group Talk

Friday, 20 October, 7pm in the Village Hall

'Shorelines: Voices of Southwold Fishermen' by Bob Jellicoe. Note that the meeting will be on a Friday and not the usual Saturday. Members only. To reserve places please email ewright123@btinternet.com. **Pat Lancaster**

Harvest Supper

Saturday, 21 October, 7pm in the Village Hall

Tickets £15 each, including a glass of wine, available from the Tuck Shop (Walberswick Co-op). Entertainment and bar. **Clive Brinley-Jones**

Church Matters

St Andrew's Church Walberswick

Team Vicar

Revd Alan Perry

01502 453624

adperry64@gmail.com

solebayteamministry.co.uk

October 2023 Services

Sunday, 1 October, 11.15am

Sung Eucharist

Joined with Blythburgh

Revd Margaret King

Sunday, 8 October, 6pm

Harvest Choral Evensong

Revd Judy Miller

Sunday, 15 October, 11.15am

Harvest Family Service

Revd Margaret King

Sunday, 22 October, 11.15am

Sung Eucharist

Revd Stephen Abbott

Every Wednesday, 10am

Holy Communion

Coffee on first Wednesday

Parish Registers

Holy Matrimony, 16 September

Hugh Pecover to Lucy Clouting

Community Services

Community Cafe: Wednesday,

4 October 2.30pm,

St Andrew's Church.

Mobile Library: Friday,

13 October 2.15pm-2.45pm,

Village Hall car park.

Norwich Bus: Thursday morning,

19 October. Please contact

Mandy Erlenbach on 07590

697575 to book a place.

Post Office: Tuesdays 1pm-3pm;

Thursdays 10am-12 noon,

Village Hall Annex.

VISIT THE VILLAGE WEBSITE

WALBERSWICK.SUFFOLK.GOV.UK

The next edition of the Village News will be published on 1 November 2023. The copy deadline is noon on 25 October 2023 and submissions should be sent to the editor at walberswicknews@gmail.com.

A message from Walberswick Parish Council

LIONLINK: WHAT WE KNOW SO FAR

This article is a compilation of information gleaned by Council members and through discussions with others following the consultation event on 23 September. This list is not meant to be definitive nor is it a perfect reflection of LionLink's plans. Rather it is just our current understanding of the proposal for Walberswick. This has been compiled for the benefit of residents who may not have attended the consultation or were unable to make sense of much of what was said, or who, like many of us, heard partial or conflicting information.

Importantly, we all found at the consultation that there are massive amounts of critical information that is not available. The LionLink representatives said that these gaps are because the detailed work has not been done yet on environmental impact, access, geographical constraints, impact on communities, costs, etc. on any of the proposed landing sites. This information would become apparent at later stages of consultation and project development. Despite this, some of the contours of the proposal are a bit clearer and we hope that this summary will be helpful as an information sharing exercise.

1. Why was Walberswick and other locations in East Suffolk chosen as potential landing sites?

National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO) reportedly determines the site where developers can connect to the grid. (This part of National Grid is reportedly separate from National Grid Ventures which is a partner in LionLink.) It is NGESO who instructed LionLink developers to bring their power to the Friston Sub-station site. From an engineering perspective, LionLink's substation needs to be within 5 km of the Friston substation. In other words, the proposal to bring cables from the Netherlands ashore here is only because National Grid told them to do so based on the expectation of the giant substation at Friston which is to be built as part of Scottish Power EA1 and EA2 approvals. The electricity from the Netherlands would then travel out of East Anglia on the pylons from Sizewell. The industry norm is to bring cables ashore in brown field sites and there is nothing intrinsically special about this Heritage Coast route except that this is the only one offered to LionLink by the UK's grid operator.

2. Has an assessment of the Walberswick site been done?

LionLink says that they have not done any detailed assessment of any of the potential landing sites (including Walberswick) or cable routes and none are identified as preferable because they have not done the analysis. This is why they haven't removed any of the sites from consideration even though in Walberswick, for example, they have identified the new G2 site having learnt that they cannot access the original site in the Cliff Field car park and that the land there may be unsuitable. They would not do detailed assessment until the consultation stage.

3. How long would the construction be at G2?

The large building site in Walberswick in Manor Field would possibly be for 12 months if they kept to schedule. It would be a 2 hectare fenced site where drilling and other equipment, worker welfare units, loos, parking etc would be based. It would be the site where the drilling to the sea would take place and where waste from the drilling would be placed during construction.

4. How would they reach a sea cable from Manor Field?

They would use "Horizontal Directional Drilling" – this can go up to 1.8km in a semi-circle underground, with the depth being circa 30metres. It would start at G2 then head some 800m out to sea and be connected to the cable there. A duct would then be attached and pulled through the hole created by the drill bit into G2. Finally, three cables (2 for LionLink and a return cable) would be pulled through the duct and be connected to the offshore cable. Reportedly, this would not require any closing off or work on the beach or marshes as the cable duct would be drilled underground until it reached the cable out at sea, but that is unproven. Some 20-30 workers would be expected on site each day in addition to equipment.

5. What happens after the G2 landfall site?

When they leave the Manor Field site, all that is left behind is a postbox sized green box. Similar boxes could crop up every couple of miles along the cable length. The main box at G2 would require permanent access (ie some road access) to allow additional work and access to the landfall as needed into the future. For the cable run, they would normally drill under roads and rivers and use trenches for the cable elsewhere (trenching is cheaper than tunnel). Although the trench is only 1 metre wide, the working area is 30 metres across and perhaps more. The part from Walberswick G2 to the underwater cable would certainly have to be drilled. They would likely trench much of the rest of the way to the substation although the engineers said that decision would be made much later after fuller assessment. LionLink says that drilling is much more expensive than trenching, so it would be less profitable for them to drill.

6. What about road access?

This is a big unknown and there is conflicting information on the haul road and access for the entire length of the cable to the substation as well as to and from the G2 landfall construction site. One engineer explained that it may be necessary to create a haulage road the length of the cable route as there is no easy road access given the potential green field cable run (as opposed to 'normal' practice that would run under or along a roadway.) In such a case, that could mean a haulage road from the B1125 through to G2 landfall perhaps using Lodge Road or not. Other engineers speculated that equipment and workers would come in on the B1387, to the Street and then onto the G2 site through a haul road cut through "somewhere" in the village.

The key point is, there is no definitive information on the haulage road except that it would be something that doesn't exist now and would create disruption in addition to the G2 industrialised site and the trenching for the cable as it leaves landfall in Walberswick. The route and location of the haulage road would have to be made public at the consultation stage. Except for the access to the "Green Box", any haulage road would be removed after construction.

7. What about the impact of noise, vibration and pollution on homes and businesses particularly given that the site is in the middle of the residential area?

There will be noise, vibration, dust and other potential air and water pollutants during site preparation and drilling, so the proximity of the residential part of the village would have to be taken into consideration along with impact on archeological sites, pedestrian footpaths and the like. The Walberswick landfall is the only one of the proposed sites that is based squarely in a residential area.

These impacts are meant to be kept to a minimum. It is not well defined, but guidance is that with a house window shut, a resident should not be able to hear the construction work. However, it was not possible to confirm whether this would be promised or possible. It was also not clear whether the vibrations from drilling could cause damage to properties including listed buildings surrounding the site. How and if there would be mitigation would be considered later in the process.

8. Does LionLink have to assess its impact?

Yes. They must assess impact on wildlife in the marshes from the trenching and from the creation of the construction site and the drilling. They have to consider the topology, the impact on the Dunwich river, the protected marshes, the beach. They are legally required to protect the stability of the land and biodiversity along with respecting the existence of protected designations (SSSI, AONB, RAMSAR). They would have to investigate protected species (such as Marsh Harriers) and would be bound by the same appraisals, mitigation and licensing as any other application. LionLink is currently unaware of all the designations of G2 including that the north and east boundaries of G2 are the boundaries of the conservation area.

19. Is LionLink Green?

No. LionLink simply carries electricity generated from the Netherlands to the UK and vice a versa. Currently, the Netherlands energy mix is majority fossil fuels.

A message from Walberswick Parish Council

LION LINK – NEXT STEPS AFTER THE NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION IN WALBERSWICK

Firstly a huge thank you for the great showing at the LionLink consultation held at the Village Hall on 23rd September. The depth of feeling and level of engagement of the village was on full display.

We have put together this information on what happens next in two parts.

First, we know that many people are keen to write their response to LionLink and this is the key next step in this long process. We will want letters in the hundreds related to Walberswick. Towards that end, we are providing below some guidance on what to write, when to do so, and who to write to.

Second, we have provided some information on “What we know so far” based on a compilation of information gleaned by Council members and discussions with others at the consultation event.

All the information in this document is also online at: <http://walberswick.onesuffolk.net/walberswick-parish-council/eurolink/> along with all other updates from the Parish Council on this topic

Writing in Response to the Consultation

- 1, Sending your own written response is better than using the survey form.** The survey questions/ answers may be biased and do not give you the opportunity to express your specific objections to the project in Walberswick. We believe it is best to write an individual email.
- 2. Consider waiting a little before writing.** The consultation does not end until 3rd November and there is no advantage writing early. It is also possible that new facts may emerge between now and the end of October which you may wish to use. The Parish Council’s own draft response (from which you may draw ideas for your own submission) will be published on this website on 10th October ahead of being considered at the next full Council meeting on 16th October.
- 3. It is fine to make use of facts and ideas from other documents and responses, but please try to use your own words in your consultation response.** Explaining WHAT the impact would be, rather than just stating that it will have a negative impact, is the best approach. Please avoid “copying and pasting” other peoples’ submissions, or using pre-supplied templates which you just sign. Such submissions have little additional impact once the developers or politicians have read the first one they receive.
- 4. Although this latest consultation is focused on the newly proposed “G2” landfall site in Manor Field, the original proposal (“G”) in the Cliff Field car park is still on the long list.** Therefore, you should consider responding on that topic too – the original Parish Council response to this proposal can be seen here. Many of these arguments pertain equally to G2.
<http://walberswick.onesuffolk.net/assets/Parish-Council/Agendas/Agendas-2022/December-2022/DRAFT-consultation-response-eurolink.pdf>
- 5. There are clearly better options for LionLink than despoiling Walberswick and brownfield sites are the proven alternative to industrialising the green field heritage coast.** Our advice remains to avoid suggesting a specific alternative landfall site on LionLink’s list of heritage coast sites as it is divisive for the campaigns of neighbouring communities that face similar issues. While brownfield landing sites are clearly the better and proven alternative, identifying a specific “acceptable” alternative can potentially undermine arguments about avoiding Walberswick if the alternative is rejected by National Grid/LionLink for legitimate technical reasons.

6. Without prejudging our response, the Parish Council's own approach is likely to have the following logic:

- a. Explaining specific reasons why Walberswick is an unacceptable site.
- b. Dissuading LionLink/National Grid from using any of the Heritage Coast given **the cumulative impact** of so much energy infrastructure (Sizewell C plus potentially 5-6 cable landfalls) on our very small and protected coast and on our wholly inadequate transport infrastructure.
- c. Reiterating that there are better ways to get the energy to where it is needed such as using an off-shore cable corridor and/or existing brownfield sites many of which have been identified or are in use now (Isle of Grain, Bradwell, Sizewell, others). It is National Grid's and LionLink's responsibility to consider these options rather than damaging greenfield sites.
- d. Ask them to take Walberswick (G and G2) out of consideration.

Who to send your response to:

Most important for all the following is to put only one name in the "To" box of your email to ensure that it is read. Please do each as a separate email – the same content can be sent to each.

NGV - this is by far the most important place to send it; email address: info@lionlink.nationalgrid.com

You can also send a hard copy in the post if you wish, addressed to:

Freepost NGV LionLink Consultation, Holborn Gate, Floor 8, 26 Southampton Buildings, LONDON WC2A 1AN (no stamp needed)

Our elected officials and Government decision-makers:

- **Therese Coffey (our MP):** therese.coffey.mp@parliament.uk
- **Claire Coutinho, MP (Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero):** Secretary.State@energysecurity.gov.uk
- **Richard Smith (our County Councillor):** richard.smith@suffolk.gov.uk
- **David Beavan (our District Councillor):** david.beavan@eastsuffolk.gov.uk
- **Richard Rout (SCC Cabinet responsibility for NSIPs):** richard.rout@suffolk.gov.uk
- **Caroline Topping (Leader of ESDC):** caroline.topping@eastsuffolk.gov.uk
- **Tom Daly (ESDC Cabinet member for Energy):** tom.daly@eastsuffolk.gov.uk
- **Kay Yule (ESDC Cabinet member for Planning and Coastal Management):** kay.yule@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Please feel free to also copy the Parish Clerk into any of your responses: walberswickclerk@gmail.com

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